

DOE Yucca Mountain Proposal Comments
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- Thanks for coming to Salt Lake City and giving citizens a chance to voice their opinion regarding the proposal to use Yucca Mountain as a nuclear waste repository.
- As a resident of Salt Lake City, I oppose the use of Yucca Mountain for any disposal of nuclear waste, whether high or low level.

It was difficult to learn about this hearing.
My reasons for opposing your proposal are as follows:

No alternative actions are considered in the EIS, violates intent of NEPA!

- I understand that the Shoshone Indians never sold the land that is now called Yucca Mountain and that the U.S. government now claims. I also understand that Yucca Mountain is a sacred site to the Shoshone. Now is the time to respect Native Americans and to let them have a say in what is to happen to their native land. *- and not just tribal leaders but the whole people.*

• There seems to be strong opposition to the proposal in Nevada and I do not believe we should be forcing the citizens of Nevada to take on the nuclear waste of the eastern nuclear industry.

• I oppose the transportation of nuclear materials across the country. Such transportation makes us vulnerable to accidents as well as sabotage. I'd like to ask you what the worst case scenario, due to either accident or sabotage is, and how well we could protect people from the consequences of such a disaster. I would venture to guess that people ARE at risk from a nuclear accident and that disaster-proof casques have yet to be designed. I believe the risk of sabotage is particularly severe. *as the representative from Jack's CEQ pointed out the EIS does not adequately address this issue*

• There is evidence, including evidence from a fired DOE scientist named Jerry Simansky, that Yucca Mountain is close enough to fault lines that it is earthquake prone. I understand that others have confirmed Mr. Simansky's findings. An earthquake could damage the casques that house the nuclear waste and let nuclear material escape into both air and the aquifer underneath Yucca Mountain. Even if we're lucky and no earthquake strikes, the casques are not leakproof and will inevitably deteriorate and leak nuclear materials into the aquifer. In a desert region where water is scarce and populations are booming, we can't risk such contamination.

• Finally, we should be discouraging the eastern nuclear industry from continuing to produce waste that we are not capable of handling. A creative economics professor of mine once referred to the "flush the toilet" economics theory. The theory explains how by flushing the toilet, we do not have to pay for the consequences of our actions. At the time, he was referring to how industry can pollute the environment without ever having to pick up the tab for the consequences of their actions. They profit from a deteriorating environment that adversely affects everyone. Today, we must not let the nuclear industry flush the toilet only to let the waste end up in our Western back yard. The industry must take responsibility for its actions. And if there is no safe way of disposing of nuclear waste, and I have yet to see a proposal that would indicate such techniques exist, the nuclear industry should be discouraged from generating any more and should put its vast resources into safer methods of energy production.

*We should be phasing out the production of nuclear waste!
It's the only sensible plan for the future.*

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